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Rusk Quizzed By Senators On Viet-Nam

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Secretary of State Dean

Rusk faced attitudes of increased concern and frustration from members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee yesterday about United States policy in Viet-Nam.

In a closed session, the Committee discussed how Congress might assert some control of the dimensions of the war by legislative action. No agreement was reached.

On the record, Rusk's hour-long appearance before the Committee, with a brief discussion of the Dominican Republic crisis and a lengthy debate about Viet-Nam, was de-

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Senate Panel Questions Rusk on Viet-Nam Policy

scribed as a "lively discussion."

Privately, several Senators said the meeting produced considerably more "mounting frustration" and "exasperation" about Viet-Nam policy than anyone wants to express in public.

Concern was said to be rising that the war in Viet-Nam can explode into general war without Congress having a voice in the decision, despite its constitutional authority to declare war.

"Out of Congress's Hands"

"We've moved into an area where wars are no longer declared," said one Senator, "and what happens is out of Congress's hands. The constitutional role concerns us, but as yet there is no clear way to come to grips with it."

Several members were said to have expressed the view that the broad military authority given to President Johnson by Congress in August after the Gulf of Tonkin attacks on American destroyers, has been stretched far beyond the intentions of Congress in the present Vietnamese war.

There was some talk, but no action, about recalling that congressional resolution as a basis for new debate.

"No one wanted to bell the cat," said one Senator.

At the same time, there was reported to be a widespread feeling in the Committee that action should be avoided that could prevent present American strategy from succeeding, or that could be construed as a repudiation of President Johnson's policy.

One Committee member not among those who have pub-

licly questioned the President's policy said: "It was frustration compounded. We know we are not getting from the Administration the full story."

Fulbright Noncommittal

Committee Chairman J. W. Fulbright (D-Ark.), when asked by newsmen afterward if Rusk was given "a rough time," replied:

"Secretary Rusk is quite able to take care of himself."

Fulbright, who publicly has suggested a temporary suspension of bombing raids against North Viet-Nam to determine if that might produce a show of interest in peace talks, declined to discuss any details of the session. He said only that it was "an interesting meeting that produced questions that were quite pointed. There were some differences about the correctness of policy in South Viet-Nam."

Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho), who advocates an American initiative to produce a cease-fire and negotiations, told reporters: "The fact that questions have been raised about other steps that the U.S. might take does not mean there is lack of support for the President."

Baltimore Speech Discussed

At the same time, Church told newsmen that "the fact that the Communists did not respond to the President's Baltimore speech offering to enter into unconditional negotiations should not preclude oth-

er suggestions that might lead to a cease-fire."

Sen. Wayne Morse (D-Ore.), the most vocal critic of United States policy in Viet-Nam, referred on the Senate floor to the congressional resolution of August that gave the Presi-

dent sweeping authority to act in Southeast Asia.

Morse said that the Foreign Relations Committee, of which he is a member, "had better call him (the President) to an accounting" for "what I con-

sider an abuse of power by the President." Morse said he saw a relationship between the President's action the Dominican troop landing and Viet-Nam.

Other sources, however, said

it is unlikely that any legislative action defining or limiting presidential power in Viet-Nam is in prospect. Such an attempt is likely to boomerang in the President's favor, it was said.